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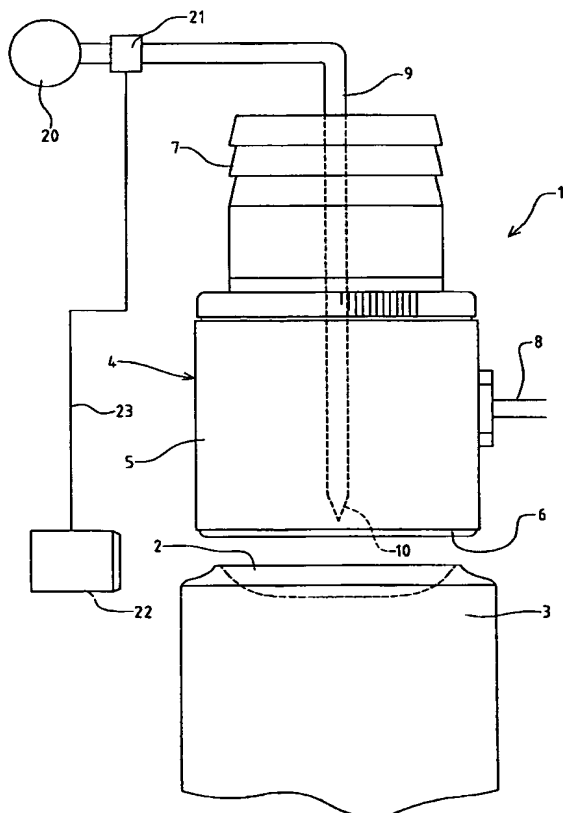
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **O. N. BECK & CO. LTD.** [GB/GB]; 104, Fox Lane, London N13 4AX (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BECK, Clifford, Howard, Berthold** [GB/GB]; 104 Fox Lane, London N13 4AX (GB).
- (74) Agent: **FORRESTER KETLEY & CO**; Forrester House, 52 Bounds Green Road, London N11 2EY (GB).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DE-WATERING ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: A method of de-watering an article (3) subjected to processing, such as pasteurising, in which water collects in a depression in a surface (2) of the article, comprises passing the article beneath a suction device (4) so that the said surface of the article passes underneath the suction device in proximity to an inlet (6) of the suction device, directing at last one jet of compressed air through a nozzle (10) at the depressed surface of the article as the said surface passes by the inlet of the suction device to displace the water from the said surface of the article into the air adjacent to the inlet of the suction device, and operating the suction device to draw the water-containing air into the inlet of the suction device. An apparatus for carrying out the de-watering method employs a Coanda effect air moving device as the suction device (4) and one or more air jet nozzles located at the inlet opening of the air moving device.

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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i)) for the following designations* AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations* AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI,

GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer _____

Silvis, H

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